



## Montana Department of Corrections Q&A WATCH DUI Treatment

*During the Jan. 30 hearing on HB275, several House Judiciary Committee members had questions about the WATCH DUI treatment program, for which accurate information was unavailable. The following information answers those and other commonly asked questions.*

### **What is the WATCH program?**

Warm Springs Addictions Treatment and Change (WATCH) programs provide treatment to those convicted of felony drunken driving. WATCH West located at Warm Springs opened in 2002 and WATCH East at Glendive started in 2005. The programs, operated by Community, Counseling and Correctional Services Inc. under contract with the state, offer intensive residential treatment that is modified to meet the needs and issues of a correctional population. The modified therapeutic community treatment program teaches offenders how to live and function while in treatment, home communities and with their families. WATCH West has developed programs to help DUI offenders who face additional treatment and recovery issues related to their offenses. The KNIGHTS program, started at WATCH West in 2007, addresses specific needs of offenders convicted of negligent vehicular homicide while under the influence. The five-bed program has a completion rate of 83.3 percent among its 50 admissions. Only 2.8 percent of those received another drunken-driving conviction.

### **What is a modified therapeutic community?**

A modified therapeutic community is an intensive, long-term residential treatment program which has been modified to meet the special needs/issues of a correctional population. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the therapeutic community treatment model has been found to be very effective in reducing drug use and criminal recidivism. The concept behind a therapeutic community is to teach individuals how to live and function within the greater society and within their own families in a sober, pro-social manner. Those in the program are not labeled as "offenders," "residents" or even "clients;" they are referred to as "family members." Each individual entering the program will be assigned to one of four units, which we refer to as "families" and "communities." These terms help to reinforce the idea that we all belong to a family, of sorts, from the family of origin, to an extended family, to the "family" of the human race. WATCH emphasizes the integration of an individual within his or her family or community. Progress is measured within the context of that family/community and against that family's expectations. It is the

(over)

family/community, working together toward their common recovery that achieves the positive change in offenders.

**How many offenders have been admitted to the program?**

2,651 since WATCH began in 2002.

**What is the success rate of WATCH?**

Since opening, the WATCH programs have a 91 percent completion rate. Of those completing WATCH and returning to communities, 87.7 percent did not receive another DUI. Seventy-five percent of those completing the program have remained compliant while under supervision.

**How long does treatment last?**

Six months, followed by a period of community supervision on probation to complete their sentence.

**What is the capacity of the WATCH program?**

115 males at the WATCH West facility and 50 males and females at the WATCH East facility.

**What is the cost of the WATCH program?**

The WATCH program for males costs \$85.16 a day per offender. The daily cost for females in the WATCH program is \$116.25, because the higher expense of providing services to a smaller population. The cost of an average stay at the WATCH West program is \$13,833 and the cost of an average stay at WATCH East is \$26,318.

**Is there a waiting list to get into WATCH?**

Yes. WATCH West has an average waiting list of 20-40 offenders with an average waiting time of 4-6 weeks following sentencing. WATCH East has an average waiting list of 5-15 offenders with an average waiting time of 3 to 5 weeks following sentencing.